



Shaun A. Suhoski, *Town Manager*
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DT: March 5, 2019

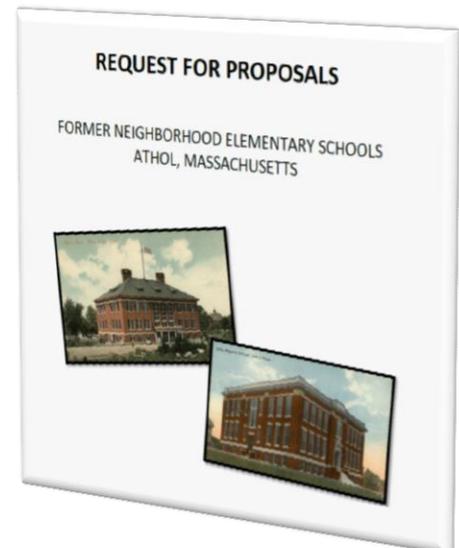
Dear Board: Please see the following update for tonight's meeting.

Request for Proposals: former Ellen Bigelow and Riverbend Elementary Schools: You may recall that in October 2016 the Town issued a Request for Proposals for productive reuse of these properties. At that time there were three housing developers expressing interest in the potential project though the Town did not receive any formal submissions.

Since then the Town offered support to a proposal by NewVue Communities to submit the schools for a graduate student design contest sponsored by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston and the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association; both highly regarded entities.

I have updated the 2016 RFP and plan to advertise by the end of March with an extended window for responses to allow sufficient time for interested parties to put together proposals.

The conditions at the close of 2016 included uncertainty at the federal level with a new administration taking office and proposed substantive changes to the federal tax code and certain tax credits. I have confidence that now is the time to return these buildings to a productive use.



Miscellaneous:

- Participated in Finance Team meeting and further discussion with regional school district administration regarding FY20 budget
- Held teleconference discussion with potential testing laboratory at Union Twist Mill site (anticipated to be on March 19 Board of Selectmen agenda)
- Held contract negotiation meetings with various collective bargaining units
- Met with staff and potential vendor to update municipal phone system at Town Hall